

Remarks & Arguments

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that Claims 18-37 are pending in the application, and that Claims 18-37 are rejected. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

Rejections Under 35 USC 103

Claims 18-37 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being anticipated by the combination of Katz (US 6,055,513) and Ladd (US 6,269,336). With regard to independent Claims 18, 27 and 34, the rejection acknowledges that Katz does not teach selecting a qualified voice character as a function of said user profile and a voice characteristic of said user and presenting said qualified content formatted in said qualified character to said user. The rejection alleges that Ladd teaches a method and system for automatically selecting various dialog voice personalities (i.e., a female voice, a male voice, etc), various speech recognition models (i.e., an English model, a Spanish model, etc.) and implementing various grammars/vocabulary to detect and respond to the audio inputs from a user based on the user profile, the user's communication device, and/or the user's speech patterns (i.e., voice characteristic of said user) (Ladd, C6; L26-49).

Applicants respectfully assert that Ladd does not teach or suggest "selecting a qualified voice character as a function of said user profile and a voice characteristic of said user". Furthermore, Ladd does not teach or suggest "presenting, to said user, said qualified content formatted in said qualified voice character, as an audio output. Ladd, at C6, L26-49, teaches a

method for recognizing speech communication received from a user. The speech recognition referred to at C6, L26-49 is described in detail at C8, L3 through C9, L3 and C9, L27 through C10, L20. Ladd teaches receiving speech communication from a user, processing the communication and caring the speech communication against a vocabulary or grammar. Thus, Ladd teaches speech-to-text conversion having improved recognition utilizing voice personalities (i.e., a female voice, a male voice, etc), various speech models (i.e., an English model, a Spanish model, etc.) and implementing various grammars/vocabulary. Hence, Ladd does not teach or suggest selecting a qualified voice character as a function of said user profile and a voice characteristic of said user.

Ladd teaches presenting, to a user, content as an audio output at C9, L1 through C9, L27. Ladd only teaches converting textual data to voice data. Ladd does not teach or suggest formatting the voice data in a qualified voice character that is a function of said user profile and a voice characteristic of the user.

For the above-advanced reasons independent Claims 18, 27 and 34 are patentably distinguishable over Katz, Ladd and/or the combination thereof. Dependent Claims 19-26, 28-33 and 35-37 incorporate all the limitations of the independent claim from which they respectively depend, and therefore are patentably distinguishable for the above-advanced reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 18-37 is respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 09/513,236
Amdt. Dated February 3, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2003


Conclusion

For all the reasons advanced above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and that action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 23-0085. In the event that an extension of time is required, or may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account 23-0085.

Respectfully submitted,

WAGNER, MURABITO & HAO, LLP

Dated: February 3, 2004 

Eric J. Gash
Registration No. 46,274
Tel.: (408) 938-9060